Epididymitis, ampullitis and periorchitis due to an ascending seminal vesiculitis caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in a stallion


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Internal genital infections in the stallion are uncommon and tend to be localized to the seminal vesicles (seminal vesiculitis) without compromising epididymal or testicular health.\textsuperscript{1,3,5-7} This stallion was presented for unilateral scrotal enlargement due to periorchitis and epididymitis caused by ascending seminal vesiculitis. Subsequent spread of the organism resulted in bilateral castration.

The diagnostic approach involved visual examination, manual palpation and ultrasonography to determine that the unilateral scrotal enlargement was due to epididymitis. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was cultured from a semen sample. Subsequent evaluation, using endoscopic isolation of fluid from the seminal vesicles, led to diagnosis of unilateral seminal vesiculitis. Treatment included surgical removal of the left testis and epididymis with the intent of salvaging the right testis and epididymis to prolong the stallion’s breeding career. During surgery, the stump of the ductus deferens was catheterized and lavaged daily for six days with lactated Ringer’s solution and ticarcillin/clavulanate. Two days after removal of the left testis and epididymis, the right testis and epididymis were surgically removed due to peracute epididymitis and periorchitis. The stallion was systemically treated with potassium penicillin, gentamycin, enrofloxacin, flunixin meglumine and sacchromyces capsules.

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* can colonize the penis\textsuperscript{1} or cause seminal vesiculitis\textsuperscript{3,5-7} leading to infertility and reproductive losses.\textsuperscript{1,2} Treatment for seminal vesiculitis can be unrewarding, but fertility can be maintained using semen extenders.\textsuperscript{3,5} *P. aeruginosa* is the most common bacterial isolate from the internal genital tract\textsuperscript{1} and may be difficult to eliminate completely.\textsuperscript{5} This is an example of seminal vesiculitis that initially affected only one testis and epididymitis, but subsequently spread to the contralateral side resulting in bilateral castration. Ascending seminal vesiculitis has not been previously reported and should be considered as a potential threat to the health of the testes and epididymides.

**Keywords:** *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, periorchitis, epididymitis, orchidectomy, ultrasonography

**References**